

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 14-16 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 14-16 stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 14 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 2 is objected to as being redundant. Applicant has amended claim 2 in light of this objection and respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action asserts that there is no disclosure of a detecting routine that automatically detects whether an external storage device is connected to the interface. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In the present specification, an information processing apparatus is disclosed which includes a stored program. The program comprises a detecting routine which detects whether or not an external device is connected to the interface and then judges whether or not the external device is a storage devices which stores an operating system. See col. 3, Ins. 13-20. Further, the method disclosed includes a discussion of the steps of detecting whether or not an external device is connected to an interface and judging whether the external device is a storage device. See, pg. 3, ln. 25 - pg. 4, ln. 5. Further, the detecting routine is done under program control, i.e., it is done automatically without any action by the user (other than connecting the external device). Therefore, there is sufficient disclosure of a detecting routine that automatically detects

whether an external storage device is connected to the interface and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9, 11-12, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,112 ("Gallagher") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,795,912 ("Itoh"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a reference or combine references to arrive at the claimed subject matter. The prior art references must also teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim in question. See, M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). A reference can only be used for what it clearly discloses or suggests. See, In re Hummer, 113 U.S.P.Q. 66 (C.C.P.A. 1957); In re Stencel, 4 U.S.P.Q.2d 1071, 1073 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Here, the references, whether taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the invention claimed by the Applicant.

Among the limitations of independent claim 2 not present in the cited references is a detecting routine that automatically detects whether or not an external device is connected to said interface.

In Gallagher, there is no disclosure of a detecting routine that automatically detects an external device. In Gallagher, a program is stored in each one of the processing unit modules 28. The program is executed in parallel in each of the processing modules. The program is executed to sequentially search a plurality of possible sources of the operating system software during a boot-up phase. The possible sources are floppy drive, local hard drive, CD ROM drive, a drive on a network, a hard drive of the storage system, a tape drive, for example. Thus, the system in

Gallagher does not automatically detect whether an external storage device is connected to the interface but merely searches valid locations which may contain an operating system. As such, Gallagher fails to disclose the detecting routine that automatically detects whether an external storage device is connected to the interface.

Itoh was not included to cure this deficiency but show additional limitations which, even if Itoh were to show, do not cure the deficiency in Gallagher discussed above.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

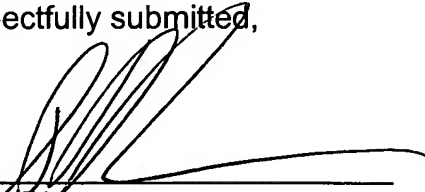
Application No.: 10/043,163

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If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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